

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06275 071243Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7423

S E C R E T BONN 06275

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, GW,

SUBJECT: ERW - GERMAN VIEWS

REF: BONN 6144

1. WHEN I CALLED ON VAN WELL ON APRIL 6, HE REITERATED THE NOW-FAMILIAR FRG VIEWS ON ERW. HE BEGAN BY EMPHASIZING THE CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL EFFORT THAT SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER HAD DEVOTED TOWARD PREPARING THE GROUND FOR A NAC CONSENSUS AND SAID THE SUDDEN NEWS FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD COME AS A GREAT SHOCK AND WAS "A REAL SETBACK." HE WAS AFRAID THE CHANGE IN SIGNALS ON ERW WOULD GIVE AMMUNITION TO ADMINISTRATION CRITICS WHO ACCUSED IT OF A LACK OF CONSISTENCY IN FOREIGN POLICY. ERW HAD BECOME A REAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM HERE AND THE CONCERNS VOICED BY SENATOR NUNN AND OTHERS WOULD LIKELY BE ECHOED AT NATO.

2. VAN WELL SAID THE GERMANS WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT WHAT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS "DISARRAY IN THE ALLIANCE," AS WELL AS THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT CARTER, COULD WEAKEN THEIR OWN POSITION VIS-A-VIS BREZHNEV. (THE SOVIET LEADER WILL VISIT BONN FROM MAY 4-6.)

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3. LOOKING AHEAD, VAN WELL SAID IT WAS NOW HIGHLY IMPORTANT FOR THE US TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION ON ERW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO URGED THAT WHATEVER DECISION IS REACHED BE COMMUNICATED IMMEDIATELY TO NATO SINCE THE FRG WAS CONCERNED THAT ERW NOT BE SEEN AS AN EXCLUSIVELY GERMAN-AMERICAN AFFAIR.

STOESSEL

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